THE CITY OF YPSILANTI NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER

Greetings from the City Manager's Office! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and was able to spend time with their loved ones. Whether your family tradition is watching sports, enjoying a big meal, or just spending time together, we have so much to be thankful for this time of year. If people are looking for opportunities to give during this holiday season, I'd like to encourage you to support Toys For Tots.

As the weather is getting colder daily and we know more snow is on its way, I want to remind everyone the warming center at the Freighthouse is open. Located at 100 Market Place in Depot Town , and will provide meals and transportation to an overnight shelter. We're very excited for this warming shelter to be available and provide any additional resources in the area. We're very excited for this warming shelter to be available and provide additional resources in the community.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous generosity of the circle of brothers and sisters this holiday season for providing a Thanksgiving dinner at the Freighthouse utterly free of charge. From stuffing to turkey and mashed potatoes and even dessert, the Circle of Brothers and Sisters helped make the holiday special for lots of those in the community without a family dinner table to sit at.

It's also a critical time for local businesses, particularly retail stores, who depend on holiday shopping to support their families and employees. Please remember to shop your local small business for the holiday season.

I also want to remind everyone that the COVID-19 pandemic remains a severe threat in our community. The best way we can support one another is by getting vaccinated and following state and county guidance to reduce the spread of the virus. We must work together as a community to keep one another safe, and if there is anyone out there who still needs a vaccination appointment and cannot find one, please do not hesitate to reach out. City Hall has returned to regular business hours, so please do not hesitate to stop in and know that we are here to help. I wish you all a beautiful and safe December.
Staying Connected,
Frances McMullan

I completed the 12-week ICMA High-Performance Leadership Academy certification program, with the knowledge obtained I hope to be a better leader for the city staff and the community.

GROVE ST. BRIDGE

On Friday, November 19th, the City Manager attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new B2B Trail pathway on the Grove Road bridge over I-94 in Ypsilanti. Joined with me were Council member Steve Wilcoxen, Project Manager Bonnie Wessler, Communications Manager Tom Koch, and State Representative Ronnie Peterson. Others in attendance were members of MDOT, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, Huron Waterloo Pathways, Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, Ypsilanti Township, and the City of Ypsilanti.

This $600,000 improvement results from a decades-long continuing partnership with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation regarding the Border-to-Border Trail. It represents a huge step forward in the safety and connectivity of the Border to Border Trail in Ypsilanti. This event is a long time coming, and special thanks to all who have contributed to making this possible.

LT. GOVERNOR GILCHRIST'S THRIVING CITIES TOUR

On November 18th, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrest II was at the Parkridge Community Center here in Ypsilanti. This visit was the second phase of his Thriving Cities tour in 2019 but was delayed last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Upon his last visit, the main points of focus for the local community were Affordable & Available Housing and Environmental Quality and Justice. Since 2019, the Michigan government has accomplished a School Aid Budget of $21.18 Million through federal COVID relief, meaning an additional $343 per student in Ypsilanti. The MI Safe Communities Framework is a proposal to invest $75 million to reduce violent crime while increasing public safety across Michigan.

Governor Gilchrest shared there has been a 10% increase in hourly childcare rates in the last year. For parents with children in childcare, this is a noticeable increase. Michigan government is pushing for a $100 million grant to assess Affordable Housing needs in thriving communities. Gilchrest stated this is just a start to help generate equal Environmental Quality and Justice.

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR LOIS ALLEN RICHARDSON

Greetings!

Hard to believe it's December already and the end of the year is upon us. Of course, the best part of the month is the holidays – being home with family and friends to make new memories. Unfortunately, we are in another surge of the virus and Michigan is at the highest levels once more. If you haven't been vaccinated, please get the shots and if you are fully vaccinated get the booster for yourself and for your family and those around you. Practice COVID protocol and wear a mask in public or in gatherings when not sure about the vaccination status of those around you. We can do better at changing the direction of sad statistics. Stay safe and stay well.

Looking back over the year, the city made major accomplishments and sustained a major loss. Sadly, we acknowledge Ypsilanti's 100+-year-old Michigan Ladder Co. closing its doors for the last time. Just to highlight a few on the brighter side, the citizens and city employees:

- Revised the Ypsilanti Master Plan and completed a Sustainability Plan.
- Regained operational authority over the Freighthouse, which presently is open daily as a warming center for those who are houseless.
- Endured and overcame the reconstruction of West Cross. Work is complete, it is open, and it is oh-so-smooth.
- Completed plans for a pedestrian crossing over I-94. Work is scheduled to begin in early 2022.
- Revamped and upgraded the city parking system.
- Established a new Juneteenth holiday here in the city (and we did it before it became a national holiday).
- Staged a fantastic Summer Jazz Series presented by John E Lawrence on ten fabulous Friday nights in Riverside Park.
- Celebrated the opening of two new restaurants downtown.
- Rejoiced at the completion of the renovations of Depot Town's Thompson building after many years of sitting empty.
- Commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club by placing a rock at Rutherford Pool.
- Held the first-ever Trunk and Treat at Parkridge Park, a fantastic success.

…….And there were many more accomplishments not listed here but enjoyed and nonetheless deeply appreciated. Thank You to all the Organizers. Planners, Leaders, Boosters, Funders, Participants, and Friends who help our wonderful city keep making better and more fantastic accomplishments.

The 21st of this month marks the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year. As we approach 2022, we look forward to longer days, if only by adding a few minutes of daylight each day. It is also the official beginning of Winter, which is a super fun time for some of us, for others- not so much. However, it is definitely a time to practice driving safely, for many that simply means slowing down. By all means, stay warm. Let this also be a time that we check on our neighbors and donate those good and gently used coats we have hanging in our closets.

It is holiday time! Hanukkah came early this year, and we say "chag Hanukkah Sameach" to all those celebrating. We wish a Merry Christmas to all celebrating. Kwanzaa starts the 26th for those observing, and from there the New Year festivities wind up to their crescendo.

During this Happy Holiday season, remember to tell someone you love them; that might be the very best or only gift they need. Here's wishing everyone a very Happy and Prosperous New Year! May you be blessed abundantly with all the essentials of life.

LOVE is the answer,
Mayor Lois

CITY UPDATES

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

Arts Commission
Commissioner
Two Youth Members

Dangerous Bldgs
Dangerous Buildings Officer

Human Relations Commission
Commissioner
Two Youth Members

Planning Commission
Commissioner

Parks & Recreation Commission

Police Advisory Commission
Commissioner
Two Youth Members

Sustainability Commission
Commissioner
Two Youth Members

YDDA
Board Member

Zoning Board of Appeals
Three Commissioners

Commissioner
Three Youth Members

Fill out this online form if you are interested in the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our Meeting Highlights have continued, which covers topics mentioned at our City Council meetings. The idea behind Meeting Highlights is to encourage Ypsilanti residents to brief a summary of what occurred at Council. With hopes that they will attend our public meetings in the future. Those who are interested can view it on our youtube page

The next Ypsilanti City Council is on December 7th & 21st, 2021. The meeting will start at 7 PM via Zoom Platform.

PEN DAM REMOVAL UPDATE

An upcoming Town Hall for Pen Dam will be scheduled in January following a report from Limnotech that will be used to submit information for the final grant reporting for the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Habitat Program. Visit our website for more information on the public engagement ad hoc committee, project updates, or upcoming meetings.

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSIONS - $200,000 BLOCK GRANT

We have completed all of our initial Community Input Sessions, many thanks to those who have attended one or more sessions. But most of all, we'd like to share gratitude to Washtenaw Urban County for their generous $200,000 block grant. After multiple input sessions, there will be one final meeting approaching in January for a decision of what these funds will be used for.

Upcoming projects from past Community Input Sessions: Parkridge Pavilion- repairs to masonry, concrete, and new lighting. Accessible path/park entrance near Community Center. Installation of seasonal speed humps on Second Street Between Michigan and Monroe. All coming in the Spring of 2022!

CLARK ROAD AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

A request was made for an incentive for a payment in lieu of taxes for apartment developments on the north side of Ypsilanti. Lincoln Avenue Capital plans to construct a 306-unit complex at 945 Clark Rd. Public engagement on this topic is December 16th at 7 PM.

RECYCLING WIZARD

WRRMA Waste Wizard - an interactive recycling search tool!
Type the name of a waste material, and the wizard will tell you where it goes for recycling, composting or disposal. Pretty neat huh?
[Find it on our recycling page!]

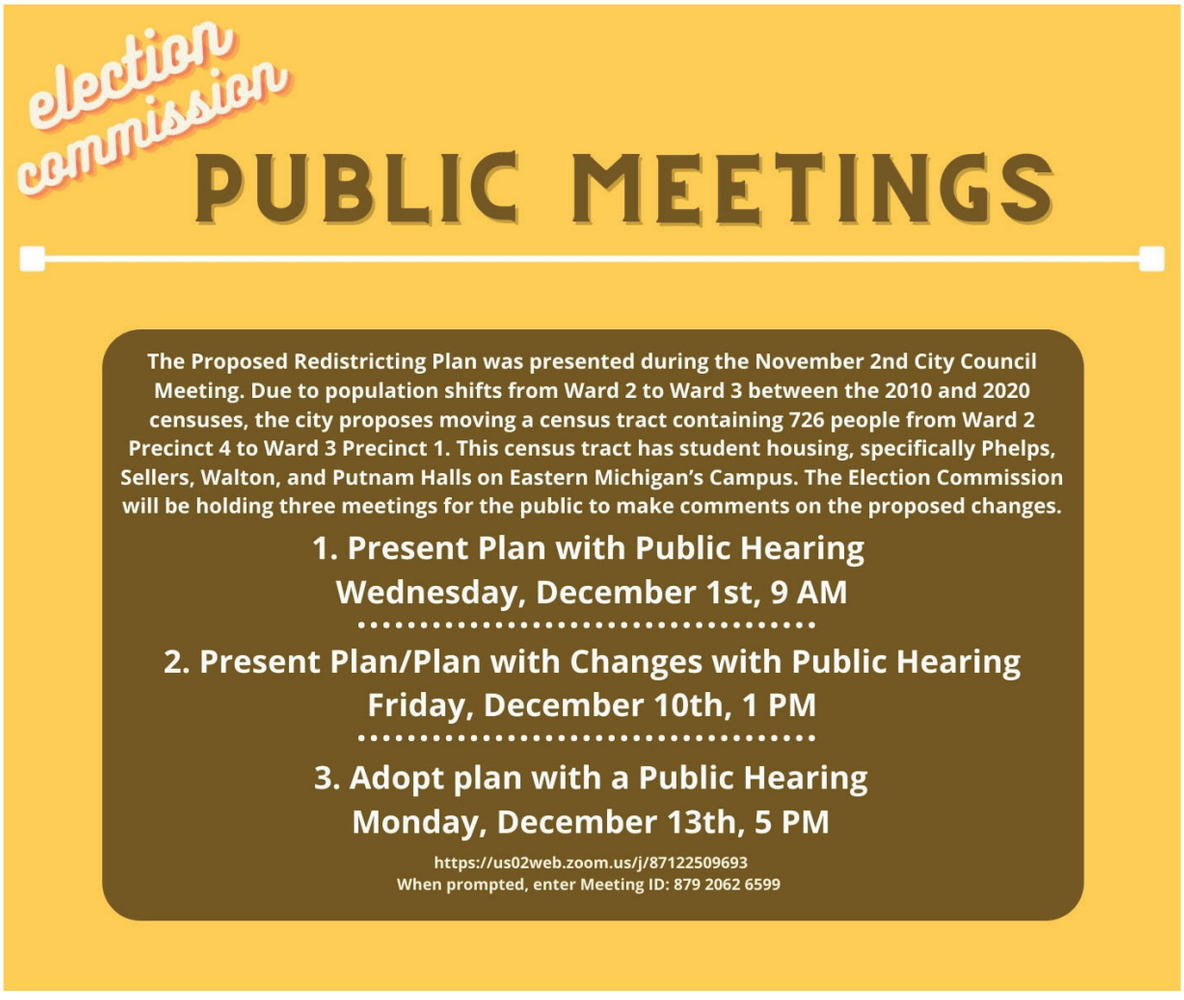
FIRE STATION UPDATE

Once a month, the Ypsilanti Firehouse Hosts a monthly car seat program with the University of Michigan- Mott's Children's Hospital. The last session was on 11/16 at the station. They are educating parents on the proper use of children's car seats in automobiles. The next event is on the 3rd Tuesday of January, due to the holidays there will be no program in December.

Car crashes are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States. Research has shown that 3 out of 4 car seats are incorrectly used. The C.S. Mott Children's Hospital Buckle Up program strives to reduce the number of motor vehicle crash-related injuries and fatalities among children. Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians and Instructors work one on one with families to show them

how to properly select a car seat, install it in their vehicle, and how to buckle children in their seats. We have a grant from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning that allows us to provide new car seats to qualifying families in need of a seat. We hold monthly car seat check events rotating locations throughout Washtenaw County. To better serve the community, our events require appointments. Each appointment takes approximately 30 minutes per child. To schedule an appointment or to find out more about our program contact us a 734-763-2251 or 734-763-5063 (Español) or visit pediatrictrauma.org.

ELECTION COMMISSION



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATES

We want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season at the Department of Public Services.
The following are updates regarding a few activities going on with the Department of Public Services in the upcoming month:

BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROJECTS:

The City of Ypsilanti has been awarded several Local Bridge Grants from the Michigan Department of Transportation to improve some of our aging bridges in the City. The first grant is for a rehabilitation project of the Forest street bridge over the Huron River, and the award total is $1.245 million. This project is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2022. The following two grants are for preventative maintenance projects on the LeForge and Factory street bridges, with the award totaling approximately $238,500 and $329,000, respectively. These projects are scheduled for the 2024 construction season.

We are excited about the opportunity to make necessary repairs to these bridges and will provide residents with more information the closer we get to the beginning of the project.

DOWNTOWN PARKING CHANGES

Big changes are coming to the downtown parking lots this month!

In the South Huron Lot, between Ferris and Michigan Ave, we'll be updating the one-hour free parking to two-hour free parking and the two-hour free parking to four-hour free parking.
A map is available online here.

In the North Huron Lot, between Michigan Ave and Pearl, we'll be designating some spaces in the north and west side of the lot as permit-only, updating some spaces in the middle aisle to four-hour free parking, and leaving the spaces in the south aisle as two-hour free parking. A map is available online here.

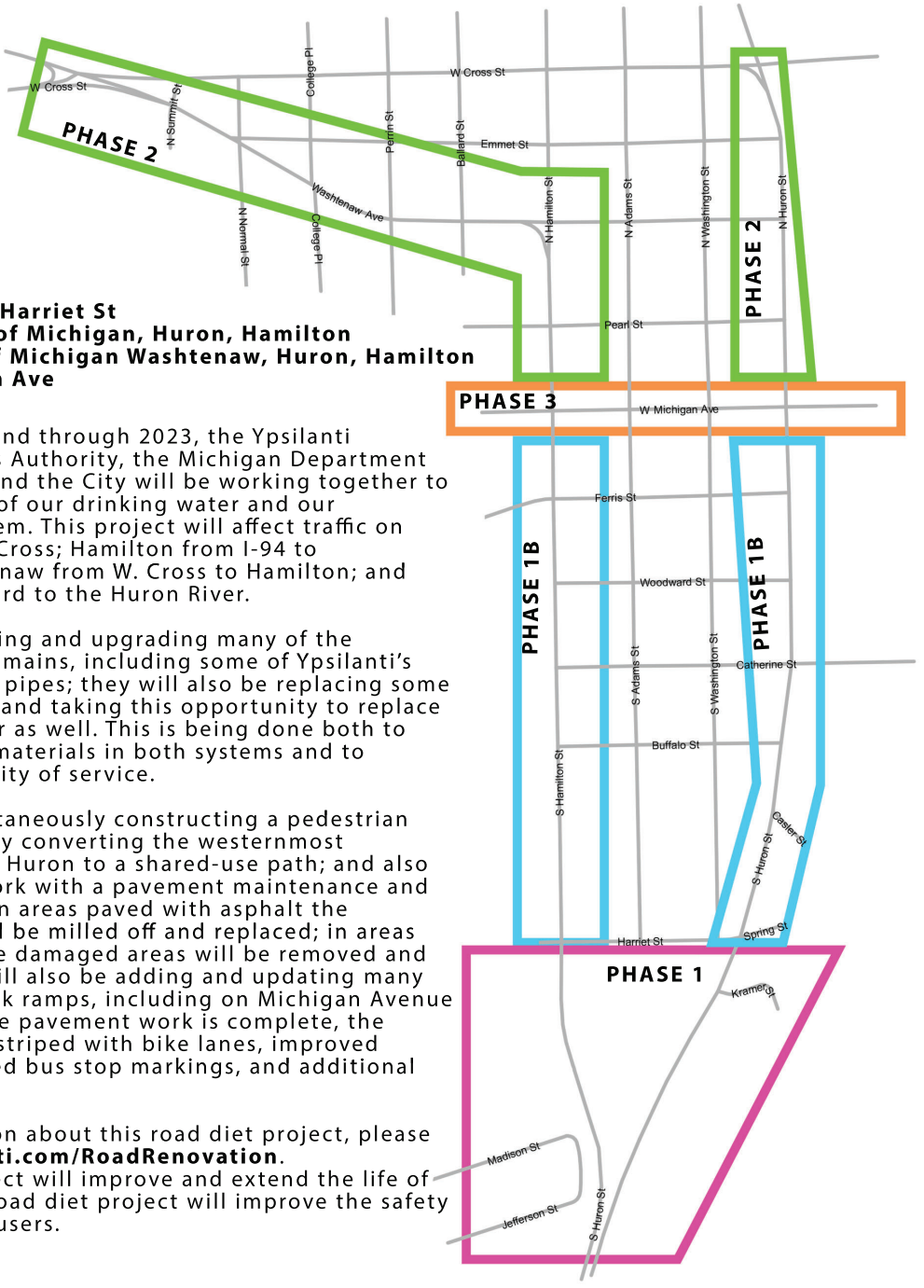
In the Adams Street Lot, between Michigan and Pearl, we'll be designating spaces in the north of the lot as permit-only, updating spaces surrounding the dumpster enclosure to four-hour paid parking, and leaving the spaces closest to Michigan Ave as two-hour paid parking. A map is available online here.

For more information about parking in Ypsilanti, please visit cityofypsilanti.com/parking.

YPSI ROAD RENOVATION

YPSI ROAD RENOVATION

Big Changes are coming to Downtown!



Phase 1 - South of Harriet St
Phase 1B – South of Michigan, Huron, Hamilton
Phase 2 – North of Michigan Washtenaw, Huron, Hamilton
Phase 3 – Michigan Ave

Beginning in 2022 and through 2023, the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the City will be working together to improve the safety of our drinking water and our transportation system. This project will affect traffic on Huron from I-94 to Cross; Hamilton from I-94 to Washtenaw; Washtenaw from W. Cross to Hamilton; and Michigan from Ballard to the Huron River.

YCUA will be replacing and upgrading many of the underground water mains, including some of Ypsilanti's oldest, most fragile pipes; they will also be replacing some water service leads and taking this opportunity to replace some sanitary sewer as well. This is being done both to remove older pipe materials in both systems and to improve the reliability of service.

MDOT will be simultaneously constructing a pedestrian pathway over I-94 by converting the westernmost southbound lane of Huron to a shared-use path; and also following YCUA's work with a pavement maintenance and road diet project. In areas paved with asphalt the existing asphalt will be milled off and replaced; in areas paved with concrete damaged areas will be removed and re-poured. MDOT will also be adding and updating many pedestrian crosswalk ramps, including on Michigan Avenue downtown. Once the pavement work is complete, the roadways will be restriped with bike lanes, improved crosswalks, improved bus stop markings, and additional on-street parking.

For more information about this road diet project, please visit **cityofypsilanti.com/RoadRenovation**.
The pavement project will improve and extend the life of the roadways; the road diet project will improve the safety of the roads for all users.

HOLIDAY TRASH/RECYCLING/YARD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Christmas Holiday:
Please be advised that trash & recycling will be collected on the normal collection day during the Christmas Holiday. The collection schedule is as follows:

Regular Collection Day	Status
Monday, December 20:	No change, will collect on a regular day
Tuesday, December 21:	No change, will collect on a regular day
Wednesday, December 22:	No change, will collect on a regular day
Thursday, December 23:	No change, will collect on a regular day
Friday, December 24:	No change, will collect on a regular day

New Year's Holiday:
Please be advised that trash & recycling will be collected on the normal collection day during the New Year's Holiday. The collection schedule is as follows:

Regular Collection Day	Status
Monday, December 27:	No change, will collect on a regular day
Tuesday, December 28:	No change, will collect on a regular day
Wednesday, December 29:	No change, will collect on a regular day
Thursday, December 30:	No change, will collect on a regular day
Friday, December 31:	No change, will collect on a regular day
Monday, January 3, 2022:	No change, will collect on a regular day

Please place the trash/recycling/yard waste at the curb no later than 6:00 a.m. on the scheduled day of collection or the evening prior.

CITY OF YPSILANTI HOLIDAY TREE COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

The City of Ypsilanti will begin collecting Holiday Trees curbside starting on Monday, January 3, 2022. Please place the tree at the curb on your normal trash/recycling/yard waste collection day and we will ensure that the tree is picked up per the following schedule. We ask that residents remove any lights or decorations from the holiday tree when they place it at the curb. Trees that still have decorations or lights on them when they are placed at the curb will not be collected.

Our collection schedule will be different this year in order to make more efficient use of our staff's time. Please note the following collection schedule for the month of January.

Week of January 3, 2022:
Holiday Trees will be collected each day on Monday – Friday.

Normal Collection Day:	Scheduled Collection Day:
Monday	Monday, January 3, 2022
Tuesday	Tuesday, January 4, 2022
Wednesday	Wednesday, January 5, 2022
Thursday	Thursday, January 6, 2022
Friday	Friday, January 7, 2022

Week of January 10, 2022:
Holiday Trees will be collected on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of this week.

Normal Collection Day:	Scheduled Collection Day:
Monday	Monday, January 10, 2022
Tuesday	Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Wednesday	Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Thursday	Friday, January 14, 2022
Friday	Friday, January 14, 2022

Week of January 17, 2022:
Holiday Trees will be collected for all days on Friday, January 21, 2022.

Week of January 24, 2022:
Holiday trees will be collected for all days on Friday, January 28, 2022.

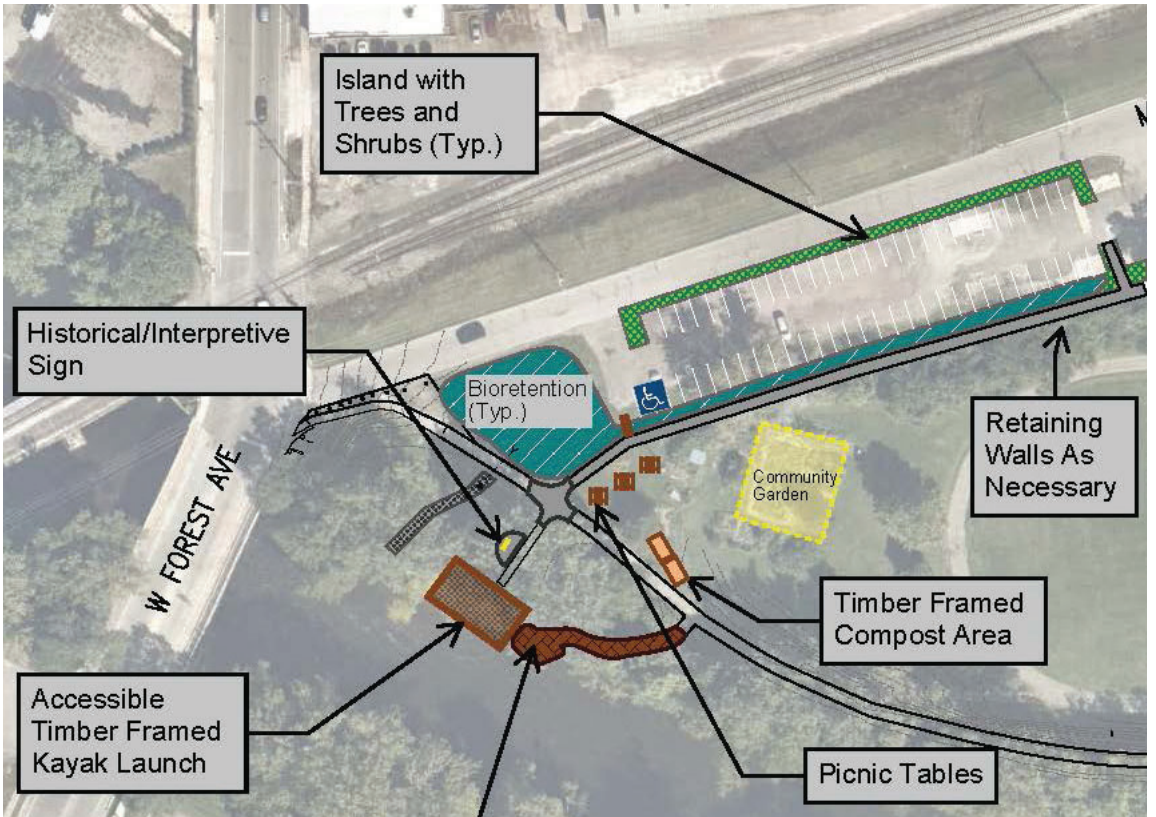
Thank you and we hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Department of Public Services at 734-483-1421 or via e-mail at wcline@cityofypsilanti.com.

GRANTS AWARDED

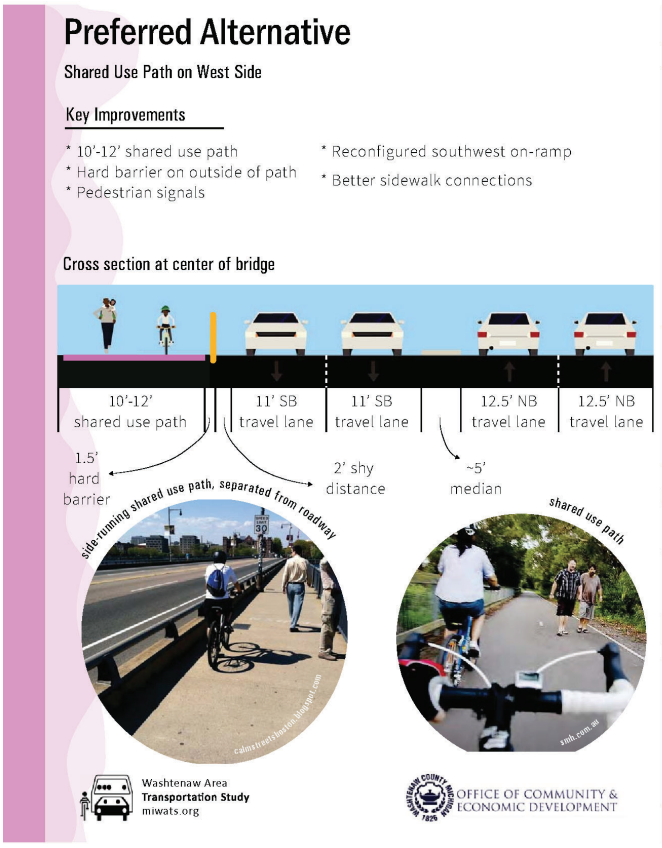
The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund recommended on Wednesday that the City be awarded $300,000 for accessibility improvements in the north end of Frog Island Park, including accessible parking, stormwater improvements, and an accessible canoe/kayak launch. This grant will be matched by $100,000 from Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation as well as funds from the City. This project is one of more than a hundred projects that will be funded by a historic distribution from the Trust Fund.

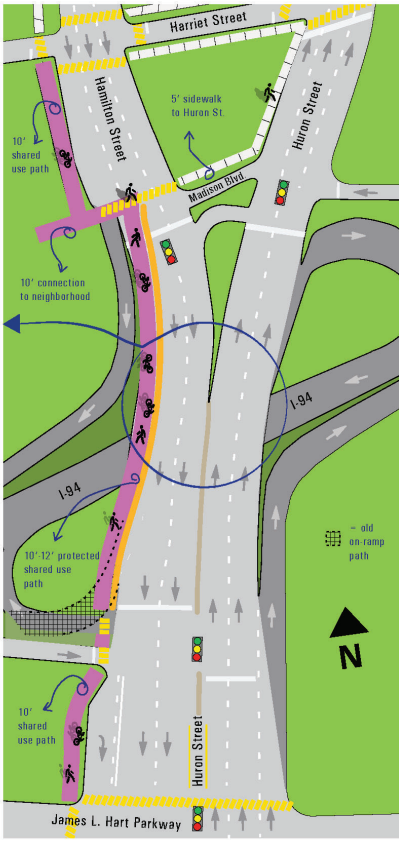
Frog Island is a prime point of access for both the Huron River Water Trail and the Border to Border / Iron Belle Trail, however many of its facilities are currently inaccessible for persons with disabilities. At the north end of Frog Island Park, there is a canoe/kayak launch, primarily accessed by a set of concrete steps or a woodchip path, inaccessible to someone with a mobility disability. The freshly-paved and newly lit Iron Belle Trail is finally accessible from the Forest Street sidewalk- but inaccessible from the nearby unpaved and poorly drained parking lot. The historic quarter-mile cinder track and soccer field at the center of Frog Island are also inaccessible to people with mobility disabilities. With this project we plan to design and construct an accessible canoe/kayak launch; an accessible fishing point; an accessible path to the track and field; add bicycle parking; and pave the parking area, adding van-accessible barrier-free parking and green stormwater controls.

CONCEPTUAL PLAN - FROG ISLAND PARK



This is the second year in a row the City has been the recipient of a Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. In 2020, the City received a $300,000 grant towards the construction of the pedestrian pathway over I-94 at Huron Street, planned for construction in the spring of 2022. That project is primarily funded by a grant of more than $2.4m from the Transportation Alternatives Program and more than $100,000 each from Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, the Charter Township of Ypsilanti, federal road funding, and the City of Ypsilanti; it has been planned and designed and will be managed by the Michigan Department of Transportation. More information about that project can be found at [cityofypsilanti.com/roadrenovation.](cityofypsilanti.com/roadrenovation)

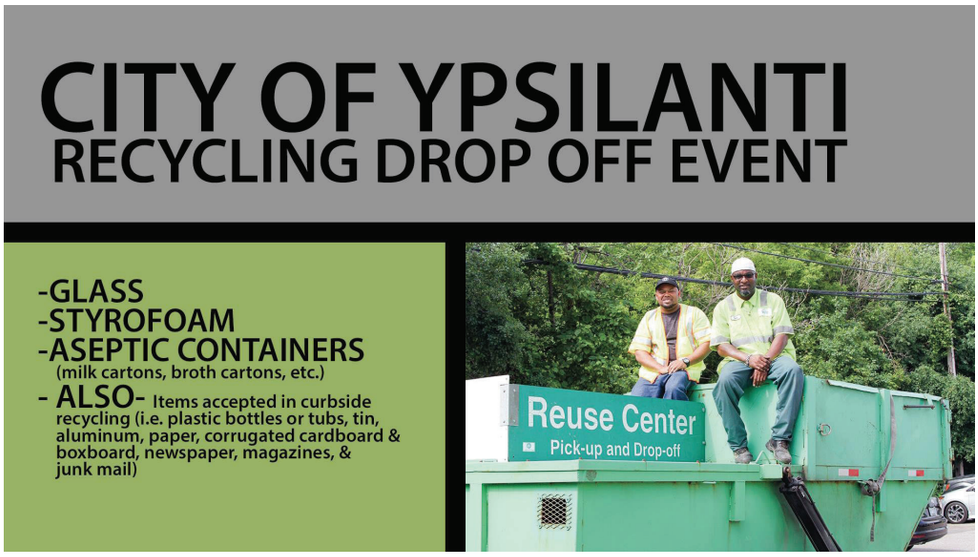




RECYCLING PROGRAM CHANGES

The City of Ypsilanti has been in conversations with Recycle Ann Arbor to take our recyclables collected curbside to their newly opened Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Pittsfield Township. Not only is this a shorter drive for our crews, but one of the most significant proposed changes with this arrangement would be that glass bottles and containers will be allowed in the City's curbside recycling program again. If City Council approves the contract with Recycling Ann Arbor at their December 6, 2021 meeting, this change will expire on January 1, 2022. We are excited about this opportunity and will add more information as we get closer to the new year.

FREE RECYCLING DROP OFF EVENTS



FREE DROP OFF RECYCLING for the following materials:
-Glass
-Styrofoam
-Aseptic Containers (milk cartons, broth cartons, etc.)
-Items accepted in curbside recycling (i.e. plastic bottles or tubs, tin, aluminum, paper, corrugated cardboard & boxboard, newspaper, magazines, & junk mail)
All GLASS, STYROFOAM, & ASEPTIC CONTAINERS must be separated, clean and dry. Items which are normally accepted in curbside recycling (listed above) do not need to be separated, but they will need to be clean and dry.

This event is for CITY OF YPSILANTI RESIDENTS ONLY
14 W Forest Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197-2447, United States
December 18, 2021
January 29
February 26
March 26
April 30
May 21
June 25

SNOW ORDINANCE AND ABATEMENT PROCEDURES

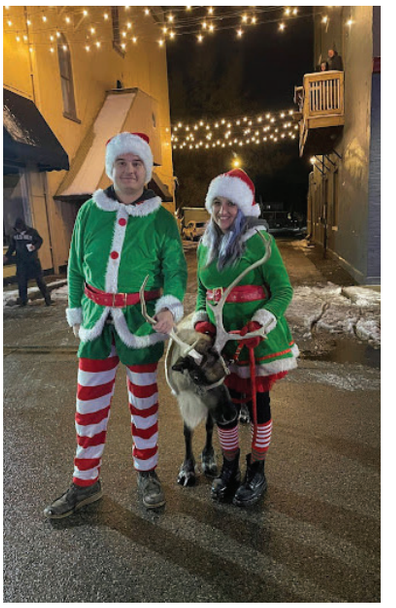
TO ALL CITY OF YPSILANTI PROPERTY OWNERS
The city's snow ordinance and abatement procedures go into effect November 26, 2021. Please be advised of the following:

1. Snow must be removed from sidewalks and parking lots within 24 hours of first accumulation of one inch (1") or more.
2. Ice must, if practicable, immediately be removed from sidewalks and parking lots. When immediate removal is impracticable, sand, salt or other chemical or materials must immediately be used and then ice must be removed as soon as practicable.
3. Only one (1) warning for abatement will be left at any parcel per snow season. Further violations will result in abatement without additional notices left at the property. The property owner/agent is responsible for abatement costs.
4. A citation will be issued for every violation, even the first. Fines increase each offense.
5. A five foot (5') path must be maintained on sidewalks at all times to be in compliance. (Properties with public sidewalks less than 5' in width must be cleared to the edges of the paved areas). Ypsilanti City Code Chapter 94, Section 94-135(a) defines the "snow season" as October 1st through May 31st. Failure to comply with abatement notice will result in the city's contractor being hired to correct the violation, with all costs for services invoiced to the property owner/agent. Further information may be obtained through the Code Enforcement Division at (734) 482-9626, or at www.cityofypsilanti.com/codeenforcement.

NEWS FROM THE YPSILANTI DDA

DEPOT TOWN HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

The Depot Town Tree Lighting Ceremony took place on November 28th and started with a holiday market organized by residents from 12 PM- 4 PM. Thank you for all the features including great food, music, cookies, and Santa's arrival as the tree was illuminated. Those who couldn't attend are able to stop by Depot Town to see the beautiful display. Please stop and visit the beautiful display over the holiday season. The Downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony scheduled to take place on December 3rd was canceled.



NEW BUSINESSES IN THE DDA!

A new business opening up in Depot Town, 'Lucky Haskins Antiques and Retro' is a retail storefront known for good stuff at good prices.

Owner Adnan Hourani came up with the name 'Lucky Haskins' while driving south on I-75 seeing an exit sign for two separate towns, and there you have it! They offer items for all including those who love sports memorabilia, comics, clothes, kitchenware, and a huge selection of vintage jewelry.

Also, LP's for those vinyl collectors in town! Lucky Haskins claims to have something for everyone. We're thrilled to have them move to 27 E Cross Ypsilanti, previously located in Dexter.

We're excited to announce a new business opening in Ypsilanti, D.P. Dough, to be located at 722 W. Cross. The business started in 1987 and is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. They have several locations on University campuses across the nation. They will be open late hours for those trying to get their pizza craving till 4 AM. Their menu involves Calzones, Wings, Tots, and Stix. Though their date for opening hasn't been announced yet, stay tuned for this new business to open soon!

HOLIDAY STOREFRONT COMPETITION

YPSILANTI THROWBACK - *PRESERVATION PLANNER SCOTT SLAGOR*

This is a mid-1920s photo, facing east on Michigan Avenue at Adams. Historic Ypsilanti is beautiful no matter what the weather, get out there and enjoy it!

AROUND TOWN

MORE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES!

The Holiday Market at the Freighthouse continues December 18th and 19th and features 40 Ypsilanti-based artisans including crafters from the south side of Ypsilanti, The Ladies Literary Club, quilt makers, jewelry makers, wood crafters, and clothing designers. We have a ton of amazing bakers, candy makers and dessert makers signed up too. The Food Co-op will be serving salads, sandwiches, and soup in the Freight House Cafe and local restaurants will be staffed up to serve as many people as we can fit in Depot Town. The Ypsilanti High School choir will be performing at 11 am Saturday singing traditional holiday songs and multicultural folk songs. The Holmes Elementary School Blue Grizzlies jazz band will be performing at 2 pm Saturday. Eric Moore will be performing folk and traditional music both Saturday and Sunday. Kenny Simon has offered to provide background music with his DJ set up and we have a photographer who is also a licensed drone pilot who will take pictures of the event and post them in real-time.

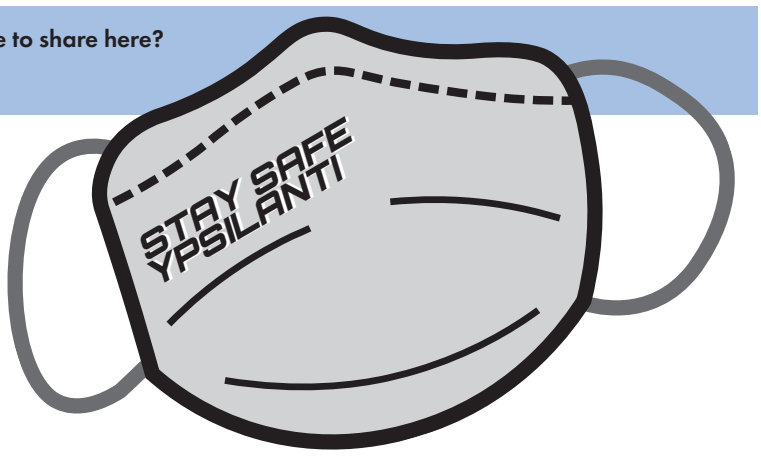
NEW BUSINESS IN TOWN!

For Ypsi residents waiting for Italian vegan options in town, this place is for you. October 8th, **Vegano Italiano** opened their doors at 530 N. Huron River Drive.

They are owned by Maryrose Angelo, a lifetime plant-based eater who moved to the area about five years ago and fell in love. Most of Vegano Italiano's ingredients and items are made locally, and their vegan ricotta is homemade instead of wholesale.

Their menu is centered around Italian cuisine, offering specials weekly. They offer an all-vegan eatery providing event catering, takeout, and delivery. Also, for any students, they offer a 10% discount to customers with a student ID. Vegan Italiano's hours are Wednesday.-Thursday 3 PM to 8 PM, Friday- Saturday, 12-9 PM, and Sundays, 11 AM-6 PM.

FIRST FRIDAYS YPSILANTI

First Fridays Ypsilanti had an amazing round of events, including a free COVID and Flu Vaccine clinic on December 3rd. They are hosting a food drive with drop-off locations across the City. Check out the flyer below for information about what can be donated, and the drop off locations.

Do you have something happening in the city you'd like to share here?
Email your article to tkoch@cityofypsilanti.com